

Remarks

Applicant has amended claims 10 and 12 to cure the indefiniteness referred to by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the outstanding final rejection.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102b as anticipated by Beck, or Bartholomew.

As pointed out by the Examiner, each of these references discloses a detonating cord device comprising a molded block having 4 sides and defined by internally connected base and lid segments, with a living hinge defined in one side of the block and latching means on an opposite side. When closed on one another these base and lid segments define a channel open to one and an opposite side of the block. Moreover, the segments when open also define slots for receiving end portions of a detonating cord so that when closed, portions of the detonating cord are oriented in said channel.

Applicant respectfully submits the Claim 10 as amended distinguishes over Bartholomew and Beck by reason of the limitation that requires a blast channel separate from the slots that receive the detonating cord. More particularly, and as now amended, Claim 10 calls for a blast channel to be open to the sides of the block associated with the hinge defining and latch defining sides. Moreover, and perhaps more significantly, the slots which receive the detonating cord in applicant's device are defined as "oriented transversely" to said blast channel and communicate therewith, said slots being open to sides of said block other than said hinge defining and latch defining sides.

Slots which receive detonating cord may be suggested in Bartholomew and Beck, as oriented on the sides of the block other than those associated with the living hinge and the latch. However, Bartholomew and Beck fail to show any blast channel extending

through the block in a direction transverse to that defined by such slots. Further, the blast channel of the present invention is defined as being open to opposed sides of the block, associated with the hinge and the latch respectively. Bartholomew and Beck fail to show or to suggest any blast channel, and in fact suggest that any passageway provided for communication between the slots, to be in the form of an enclosed cavity such as "8" in Beck and such as shown at "42" in Bartholomew (Figure 2). Clearly, such an enclosed cavity cannot be considered the equivalent of a blast channel open to opposed sides of the block, as called for in amended Claim 10.

Claim 12 stands rejected on 35 U.S.C. section 103 as unpatentable over either Beck or Bartholomew further in view of Owen (Previously cited). Owen discloses foam panels arranged in a stack so as to contain loops of detonating cord in a package for shipment. However, and as pointed out previously, Owen does not show or suggest several unique detonating cord retention devices, arranged in a line so as to provide for oppositely disposed outwardly radiating loops of detonating cord in each of the panels for safe transport of the detonating cord.

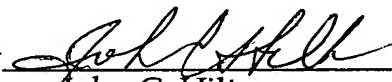
In conclusion, applicants' amended claims distinguish over the newly cited art relied upon by the Examiner in the final rejection. The Examiner is encouraged to reconsider the finality of that rejection, or in light of this response to that newly cited art, to find this application allowable as presented. While applicants amendment may have necessitated this new line of rejection, it is clear that original Claims 10, 11 and 12 were at least considered by the Examiner to define over the originally cited prior art. Applicant is entitled to a further action on the merits based on the newly cited prior art to Bartholomew and Beck. Reconsideration is respectfully requested by the applicant to

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expedite the prosecution of this case, and obviate the need for filing a Request for Continued Examination, with the resultant delay and expense incident thereto.

Should the Examiner have any further questions on the propriety of the amended claims as now presented, applicant's attorney can be contacted at the telephone number listed below in order to provide any additional revision to the claims as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
John C. Hilton
Registration No: 22,965
Attorney for Applicants

McCormick, Paulding & Huber
City Place II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
860-549-5290